



Communication Services  
5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001  
Phone: 303-795-4284  
Fax: 303-738-7894  
[www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us)

**For release: June 9, 2005**

Contact:

**ANDREA RASIZER**

Communication Services Director

Direct: 303-795-4284

Mobile: 303-882-1909

E-mail: [arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us)

## Media Advisory

### Feast your eyes on this ...

Arapahoe County and local communities to celebrate nearly \$6 million in Open Space revenues with a lunch in the great outdoors

On June 16, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners will celebrate the distribution of \$3.6 million in Open Space Shareback funds and nearly \$2 million in new Open Space grants to our cities, towns and community partners with a Picnic at the Park.

**Where:** Arapahoe County Community Park  
7800 S. Potomac St. Englewood, CO 80112 (SE corner of Potomac St. and Broncos Parkway)

**When:** Thursday, June 16, 2005, 11 a.m.

**Who:** Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, members of the County's Open Space and Trails Advisory Board, County staff and representatives from Aurora, Bennett, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Deer Trail, Englewood, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Sheridan, Watkins and South Suburban Parks and Recreation.

Approximately \$3.6 million in Shareback Funds will be distributed to 12 cities and towns in 2005; and \$2 million in Open Space grants. This is the first distribution of grants for Arapahoe County's Open Space Program.

In November 2003, Arapahoe County voters approved a countywide .25 percent sales and use tax for the preservation of open space in Arapahoe County. Collection of the tax began Jan. 1 and will expire Dec. 31, 2013. As part of the program, participating incorporated cities and towns within Arapahoe County are eligible each year to receive 50 percent of the total tax collected, divided by the population within the incorporated portion of the County. In addition, a pool of money is set aside each year for grants to special districts and incorporated cities and towns.

The tax is used to preserve urban and rural open space and natural areas; protect lands that preserve water quality in rivers, lake and streams; provide, maintain and improve neighborhood parks, open space, sports fields, picnic facilities and multi-use trails; protect wildlife habitat and corridors; preserve agriculture and ranchlands; and enhance and maintain designated heritage areas.

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